

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CPR-02

PRS-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /058 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8058

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 08051

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: POMPIDOU FUNERAL; DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT

L. IN THE EVENT PRESIDENT NIXON DECIDES TO ATTEND
POMPIDOU FUNERAL APRIL 6, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO
CONSIDER FOLLOWING DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT:

"I COME TO FRANCE ON A SOLEMN ERRAND, TO HONOR
THE LIFE AND DEEDS OF A GREAT PRESIDENT. FRANCE AND THE
WORLD HAVE LOST A STATESMAN, AND I HAVE LOST A TOWERING
COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND.

IN LANDING ON FRENCH SOIL, I CANNOT BUT RECALL
A SIMILAR SOLEMNMOMENT LESS THAN THREE AND A HALF YEAR

AGO. WE GATHERED THEN, FROM ALL THE CORNERS OF THE
EARTH, AS WE DO NOW, TO PAY OUR LAST RESPECTS TO GENE-
RAL CHARLES DE GAULLE.

PRESIDENT POMPIDOU WAS OFTEN CONSIDERED THE HEIR
OF GENERAL DE GAULLE, AND THIS IS TRUE IN A PROFOUND
SENSE. BUT BOTH PRESIDENTS WERE THE HEIRS OF AN EVEN
MORE PROFOUND TRADITION, THE FINEST QUALITIES OF THE
NATION AND PEOPLE WHICH SELECTED THEM IN TURN FOR THE
HIGHEST OFFICE.

PRESIDENT POMPIDOU WAS A MAN OF KEEN INTELLECT TEMPERED WITH WARM
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HUMANISM; ENORMOUS STRENGTH OF CHARACTER FORGED IN
ADVERSITY AND SUCCESS; TENACITY AND PURPOSE MELLOWED
BY REALISM; DEEP INDIVIDUALITY WHICH REINFORCED, RATHER
THAN WEAKENED, HIS BONDS WITH ALL THE PEOPLE; AND
ABOVE ALL, HE POSSESSED IMMEASURABLE PERSONAL COURAGE.

THESE ARE THE QUALITIES THAT UNDERLIE THE GREAT-
NESS OF FRANCE AND HER FINEST HOURS. THESE ARE THE
QUALITIES I FOUND IN PRESIDENT POMPIDOU. THESE ARE THE

QUALITIES WE SHALL REMEMBER, AND SHOULD TRY TO LIVE BY.

I BRING THE MOST PROFOUND SYMPATHY OF THE PEOPLE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, YOUR OLDEST ALLY, TO
THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE."

STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, STATE FUNERALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS08051
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740074-0989
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740470/aaaacmtl.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <01 AUG 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POMPIDOU FUNERAL; DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT L. IN THE EVENT PRESIDENT NIXON DECIDES TO ATTEND
TAGS: PGOV, FR, (NIXON, RICHARD M), (POMPIDOU, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005